

PARIS FASHION LETTER.

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Paris, Feb. 25.—With Lent upon us, it is proper that we should be turning our thoughts toward soberer garments. As a matter of fact this is not the case. Lent, with its outward formula of prayers and repentance, is but an opportunity for the surreptitious preparation of new garments in which to inaugurate another season of social dissipation.

A costume well suited to the subdued and pensive pose of the Lenten saint I had the pleasure of seeing yesterday. It was not a gown on which one might save much for the poor, for it was made by one of the best dressmakers in Paris, and the materials were expensive. Namely gray was the color and the material the new satin faced cloth. The skirt was cut in five gores, with trimming consisting of two tiny frills of gray silk ribbon carried down either side of the front and around the hem in panel effect. A wide collar of lace was carried across the shoulders. Down each side of the gray satin vest were applied two pointed pieces of lace, which were caught under the gray silk girde.

A house gown of rather elaborate pattern, but of equally quiet gray, was shown to me at the same time. It had been ordered by a fair one who expected to wear it in her boudoir in the morning when receiving her dearest friends. It was of tight fitting, soft fibered silk and incised with lace. The cascade draperies of the front and the hem were lace trimmed; so also were the wide flounces on the edge of the sleeves and the short, loose overleeves. Deep squares of lace formed the upper part of the bodice, the quality being the popular guipure. The neck was cut low and round, from which I presume madame is proud of its beauty. From the middle of the back yoke a fan shaped arrangement of the silk caught by a crystal buckle fell in a long wattlelike fold that broadened into a graceful, stately train. The silk muslin fronts of the gown were elaborated with chiffon ruffles and lace.

Not all Parisians are devotees, as I learned. One frivolous young matron who flitted away to the Riviera with a gay party of friends the very day before Ash Wednesday carried a new promenade gown which was evidently constructed for conquest. It was of the outdoor type suited for wear in southern climates. Antique cashmere was what the fabric was called, the edge of the material that formed the long tuniclelike drape in front being elaborately figured in a sort of oriental pattern in dull yet rich colors. The waistcoat, which showed considerably between the lines of the crossed bodice drape, was of dull red velvet. The velvet was continued in the skirt and showed between the pointed space where the loose tunic fell back over the front of the skirt. A ruffle of velvet was rather a unique use of the material, and, as it hung well, was a very pleasing effect. The sleeves were of tight fitting, and just a little above the elbow, beginning under a ruche of lace, they were of velvet. A touch of white chiffon was shown between the lace faced reverse at the throat, the high collar being of cashmere, with two deep pointed pieces of lace falling over it. The cuffs on the sleeves consisted of an ingenious arrangement of lace squares and silk.

Many of the soft materials when made up are, like this gown, made with gracefully crossed draperies. All skirts

are more or less trained and made quite long at the sides and front.

Now comes to me from America that weddings over there are especially numerous. Some of the wedding garments for the May and June weddings have already been ordered here and are dreams of loveliness. Rich brocade for bridal robes, the furnishings being rich lace falling over deep flounces finished off by tiny ruchings of chiffon or silk. The draperies, whether of lace or other material, are caught up with clusters of orange blossoms. Lace yokes, as a rule, are edged and otherwise trimmed with the ruchings of chiffon with which the Parisian dressmaker is now so fond of softening harsh edges.

The sleeves are long, very often of transparent lace, close fitting, or of thin gauze material to form the fashionable monastique sleeve. On some of the gowns the skirt is trimmed with a single deep flounce of lace or other filmy fabric and edged above with a narrow frill or a double row of chiffon. Small bunches of orange blossoms are tied with a small bow of ribbon, whose streamers fall coquettishly over the chiffon edges. The bodices are cut low, but the décolletage is lace filled, decollete wedding gowns being in very bad form. Pretty lace collars sometimes hide the line where the neck lace and the bodice unite.

Orange blossoms on the shoulder, brought down on one side of the corsage and cleverly alternated with the lace drapery, is a very pretty trimming to some of the most fashionable of the bridal corsages. Bridesmaids seem to have a preference for white cloth gowns. The American bridesmaids are not ordering their gowns here, so my means of judging of them is by the kind of garments worn by attendants at the Parisian or London weddings. White cloth gowns trimmed with silver embroidery were worn at one swaggy bridal, while at another they were of white cloth, edged with fur and trimmed with large lace fichus. A recent wedding introduced the novel idea of bridesmaids' gowns of white broadcloth trimmed with white lace and ornate, each maid carrying instead of flowers a large gift of ermine, lace and stephanotis. They were picture hats of white velvet, quaintly trimmed with bunches of ostrich feathers.

At a recent wedding in one of the exclusive circles of the old nobility the bride's gown was of white satin, the front draped with heirlooms of old lace dashed with knots of tulle and orange blossoms. The long court train was covered with tulle finished off at the edges with a flounce of lace and more knots of orange blossoms. The gowns of the demoiselles d'honneur were of white cloth, the corsage arranged with yokes of plaited white silk and rounded revers, edged with silver and pearl embroidery. The bodices were draped in fichu fashion, with white mousseline de soie, fastening at one side of the waist with a brilliant buckle, from which fell the ends of the mousseline.

The latest variety of artificial flowers for millinery in no respect resembles nature. They are made of mousseline de soie, outlined with silver threads or spangles. Hats and toques trimmed with them are shown among the advance spring fashions. These ornaments are of every size and seem to have ousted from the headgear of the early future

the camellias, water lilies and orchids which have defied the winter frosts.

The weather is so moderate here now that one can dispense with heavy wraps. As a consequence, one has a chance to observe more in detail the modish outdoor gowns. Smoke tinted gray made up in one of the bonnevilles. It was ornamented with stitched strapings of the same laid round in applique of orange to form a wavy dorsal pattern on the front of the knee jacket and showing where the long overskirt drape was rounded off over the skirt. The vest was of the palest shade of orange.

For evening wear I still see capes of light colored cloth, the high protecting collars lined with fur. The lining is usually of damask satin, cream color being the popular shade. Some very much admired cloaks have been of black satin spangled with jet and fitted to somewhat resemble a loose fitting redingote. The sleeves were wide, and the turned up collar was lined with lace or fur.

Of course the sad death of President Faure will even after Lent somewhat tone down the gaiety of the gayest city in the world. The greatest sympathy is felt for the Faures.

Fringe in jet silk beads and cords is again trying to make its way as a fashionable trimming. The manufacturers are turning out epaulets with fringe hanging almost to the waist, while deep flounces of fringe are shown as anticipative of what we may expect a little later.

High coloring is noticeable on the advance hats. Many novel ornaments are introduced, possibly the oddest of all being the adaptation of horrid designs, so that the rich American woman who has just secured a coat of arms from one of the heraldry factories may flaunt it in public on her bonnet when she is unable to advertise her social position by a diamond tiara. Opals, pins, medallions linked with jeweled clasps, gemmed insects, reptiles and birds, together with miniature copies of ancient weapons of war, are some of the gorgeous ornaments of the spring bonnets and toques.

One of the latest novelties is spangled stockings. The newest hosiery is shown in specimens as glittering as the bespangled gowns. The new eye wears her serpentine hosiery only with her spangled evening dress and slippers. One can imagine the effect of black stockings worked with black and silver paillettes. One of the most sumptuous pairs shown is of pale blue embroidered with silver and spangled with turquoise and pearls. This seems more foolishly extravagant than the jeweled garter pad, but fortunately there is not much danger of many women undertaking to imitate it, for such hosiery is beyond the means of any but very wealthy women. Hand painted to any woman who can paint, and in this day of art schools and art departments as special features of torture in most of the women's colleges and "finishing" schools, where is the woman who cannot use the brush a little? She can spangle her stockings over a hand drawn design and then paint the roses and forget-me-nots. The laundry? Oh, no woman is expected to wear jeweled hose who cannot afford to throw them away after one use!

CATHERINE TALBOT.



CHARMING HOUSE DRESS.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Mousseline de soie skirts with shirred flares put on in the form of a tunic and worn with a guipure coat made long at the back to meet the ruffles are one of the variations in evening dress. Incursions of silk of the color of the skirt in here and there all over the coat give a very novel effect.

Quaint little Gretchen dresses and odd Wilhelmina bonnets for little girls are brought out at the importing houses and furnishing stores. The dresses are made of cashmere, drap d'alma, henrietta cloth or novelty goods, and the handsomest are trimmed with velvet, the bonnets made of velvet to match.

The prevailing tendency in skirts just

at the moment is to abolish seams as nearly as possible. One new model has no seam in the back and is carried out in cloth with silk introduced at each side in panels or a sort of stole effect.

A bolero bodice with a novel finish shows little straps of velvet caught at each end, with a small button fastening the bolero to the belt all around the waist. This space is usually two inches wide, and some contrasting color shows underneath between the straps.

Foreign fashion notes tell us of a hat-pin with a fastener secured by a tiny gold chain, which makes it impossible to lose the pin without losing the hat. Pins with chains attached are used as hat ornaments to fasten a bunch of flowers in place.

A NEW FAD IN EMBROIDERY.

Just at present linen embroideries are enjoying a revival of popularity. A variety of linen embroidery that is just coming into favor is the Egyptian. It is done on tan or dark linen that recalls the three colored wrappings of a mummy of one of the earlier dynasties. The designs are mostly Arabic or Egyptian characters worked in white, brown or yellow silk.

The cabalistic characters on the calendar cover in the sketch are supposed to carry some charm with them. They signify something about the flight of time. The background is tan linen; the applique black and white linen worked about the edges in silk.

The pattern on the thick book cover is supposed to mean, "The protection of Allah be with you," and is a very pretty inscription for a linen cover to be slipped over a handsome birthday gift book.

The method of working this charming embroidery is quite simple. Two pieces of linen of contrasting colors are tacked together, the design being traced on the upper piece of linen. This outline is then worked out in silk, the embroidery being as heavy as rather coarse silk will permit. The working may be slight or elaborate, as the taste dictates, but the colors should be chosen with a view to carrying out the idea of oriental effect, dark, dull reds being combined with washed out looking blues, yellows with rich browns and blacks with whites and grays. The outline is done in firm buttonhole stitch and the filling as the embroiderer fancies.

When the embroidery has been completed, the upper layer of linen is cut away around the designs, leaving it under them as a background. Of course in this part of the work one must exercise very great care, as, unless a small and convenient pair of scissors is judiciously used, there is danger of cutting the under fabric. One advantage of this work is the ease with which it is done.

One of the sketches shows a cushion cover on which is applied a pair of parrots, the picture showing but one-half the design. The background is of gold silk, worked in checks in a darker shade. The body of the birds is put on in the same shade of coarse silk, the wing feathers being shaped of golden brown and orange velvet. The birds are outlined in brown silk, buttonhole stitch. The foliage about them is done in brown silk, with brown embroidered edges.

The thin book covered with linen, on which is worked Arabic characters, is intended for a blotting book. It can be used as a portfolio instead.

A magazine cover can be made in

coarse ceru linen, the pattern worked upon it being orange and lemon trees with the branches intertwined. The tree stalks are treated in brown linen embroidered along the edges, the branches being worked in the same shade of silk.

The leaves can be put on in brown too. The oranges and lemons are done in the proper shades of linen, and then finished along the edges in embroidery silk. Silk may be used for the applique, a good shade of wash silk being chosen. In this case the leaves may be green and the colors of nature, in oranges and lemons, much better carried out. The cover should be lined with pink silk.

Another sketch shows a tenfold of rush green linen, with an applique border of yellow irises and foliage. In this case the iris blossoms and foliage are first worked out on white linen in conventional shade. The embroidery is then cut out and applied to the green linen. If a simpler pattern is wanted, it may be cut from yellow linen, the



her eyes out over a piece of fancy work, and if women will insist on keeping up the appearance of deference to masculine ideals, why, the applique embroidery is a modified form of the diversion. There are fewer fine stitches to take, and therefore the danger to the eyes is less great.

ELLA MATHIESSEN.

flower petals shaded in yellowish brown silk and the leaves outlined and shaded in green. The daffodils are put on as a border, the stem starting from the corner of the cloth, with the silk shading deepest there.

Tenfold cloths with an all over pattern of convolvulus, sparrowroot sets with toilet cover mats and hot water cozies worked on white in the color of the room are prettily ornamented with this embroidery.

A woman never looks more delightfully feminine, which is what pleases the lords of creation, than when poking

HOW CHILDREN SHOULD BE SHOD.

Too much care cannot be expended by the mother upon the comfort and well being of her children's feet.

So much misery in after life can be dispensed with by thoughtful parents that it is astonishing indeed when one looks around at the children of one's acquaintance and notices how they are in many cases allowed to wear shoes either too large or too small for them.

Even little babies can and do lay seeds of corns to come as the years go by. For too often they are kept by an economical mother in woolen boots shrink to half their size, or little kid shoes which it is quite a struggle to get the tiny foot into.

Some people have the idea that to let their children run about barefooted causes their feet to develop more symmetrically than they would cramped up

ger than the foot, because when the child stands up the weight of the body is thrown largely upon the big toe, and a shoe that is too short would be most likely to give that most distressing trouble, an ingrowing toe nail. It may also at the same time be responsible for enlarged joints.

Thick shoes are better than thin ones for outdoor wear, but while thick they must on no account be clumsy.

It is far better, if only mothers would believe it, to spend money freely on children's shoes and stockings and let the rest of their clothing be plainer and less beautifully trimmed.

A Really Good Cosmetic.

To know of a good cosmetic is a great boon to women. Eau de Cologne is one of the best cosmetics known, and it possesses numerous virtues. First of all, it is not expensive. Then it is not

logne and water is most refreshing when feeling dusty and uncomfortable on a journey. It is not good to use eau de Cologne undiluted, for so many skins would not be able to bear it when applied in full strength.

Then how invaluable it is as a mouth wash, hardening the gums and imparting a fresh, pleasant taste to the mouth, while if a wedge of cotton wool steeped in the scent is placed in the hollow of an aching tooth it will stop the pain, and so ease may be obtained until the aid of a dentist can be called in.

Even in sickness it has its use. Many a burning neuralgic headache may be relieved by pouring the perfume over the aching part. As it evaporates, and this it does quickly, the burning sensation will be relieved, and in more cases than not the sufferer will be soothed off to sleep, while handkerchiefs folded and soaked in eau de Cologne and water will relieve the pain. In the case of sick headaches particularly, very quickly. These want to be changed as soon as they begin to feel at all hot.

Make Bedrooms Dark.

The brain will receive more perfect rest if the sleeping room is completely darkened, and for those who are bad sleepers this precaution should be especially taken. Some rooms are filled with light long before it is time to get up, and if some means are not taken to prevent it the morning rest is more or less broken. This is more particularly the case with children, so that it is well to accustom them from the first to sleep in the dark.

A room where venetian blinds are in use can always be darkened, and the best thing to use is dark green holland. The morning light pouring in on the face of the sleeper is particularly bad for the eyes, and for this reason alone it should not be tolerated. Sleep in a darkened room will always be found more refreshing.

Call's Head Entire.

Have a saucepan or copper pan fully large enough for the head to have sufficient room. Tie the head up in a very thick muslin; put it into the saucepan so that the water covers it completely; let it boil up once or twice; skim it, and add salt and pepper, onions, parsley, a bay leaf, cloves and any other spices that may be fancied. Let it cook slowly for six hours, skimming it every now and then. When done, carefully remove the muslin, strain, dish up and garnish with green stuff. The ear can be cut a little, and trim the mouth with pieces of lemon, or it looks very unattractive. Serve with a sauce piquante made with oil and vinegar, salt, pepper, mustard and chopped parsley.

A Cure For Croup.

A strip of flannel doubled, dipped in hot water, wrung out and applied to the neck of a child suffering from croup will often give relief in ten minutes.

emerald green velvet, drawn down to a sharp point in the center of the front and fastened there by a long, narrow diamond buckle. The triple skirt idea finds its echo in the bodice, where a deep cape collar formed of three frills of cloth edged with stitching is draped round the shoulders, almost in the fashion of a fichu or pelerine. Above this there is a quaint little square cut yoke of cream satin covered with ivory lace applique, the design of which is outlined with green satin baby ribbons, while the collar band consists of a few folds of emerald green velvet drawn through narrow diamond slides. A charming touch of dark violets, with bows of emerald green velvet placed erect on one side, will be worn with this pretty gray gown.

EARLY SPRING STREET GOWN.

CHIC CLOTH GOWNS.

An exceedingly smart cloth gown is made in pale gray cloth, with a perfectly plain skirt bordered at the extreme edge of the hem with several rows of stitching. Above this skirt there are two other skirts or tunics, also of gray cloth, the cloth being naturally one that is very light in weight and lined only with soft gray surah. These two overskirts are almost like long redingotes in appearance, the upper one being, of course, by far the shorter of the two. They also are edged with stitching and fit quite closely to the figure for some distance below the waist.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To remove ink spots from mahogany apply spirits of salt with a piece of rag until the stain disappears. Use most carefully.

To prevent steel brooches and ornaments becoming rusty keep them, when not in use, in a box with a little powdered starch or arrowroot.

To keep insects from birdcages hang a small bag of sulphur in the cage. This will not harm the bird, but it will keep away the vermin that collect, unless great care is exercised, in birdcages.

Fly marks and general grime may be removed from gilding by dipping a small piece of cotton wool in gin and with it rubbing gently over the soiled parts. The cotton wool should be squeezed before being applied to the gilding, for this must not be made really wet, and any damp on it should be dried by the fire as soon as the marks have been removed.

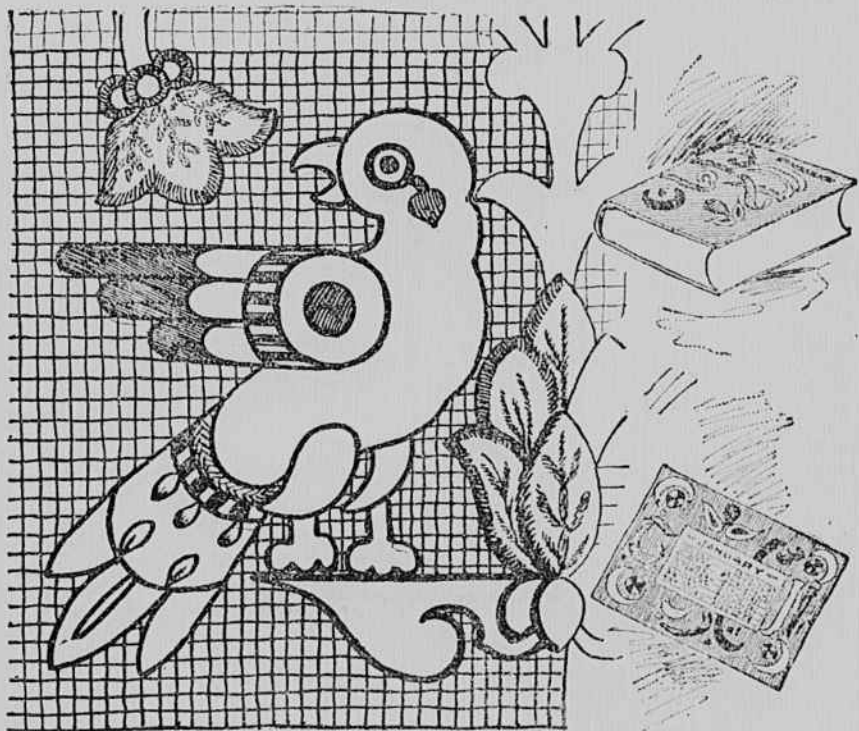
Often change your position when you are doing a day's sewing. Every position, even the most comfortable, becomes tiring if maintained for long at a time, and you will find an enormous difference in the matter of fatigue if every now and then you make some little change. If it is only from a rather high chair to a lower one.

Before putting away your winter shoes rub them over with castor oil. This will prevent their cracking and will not prevent their being polished with ordinary blacking when you want them again. It is a good plan not only to oil boots that are being stored, but to do so about once in six weeks, for it preserves the leather.

To renovate a black leather bag sponge it with some strong soda water. When soaked with this, apply a coat of good black ink and allow it to soak in. When quite dry, give it another dressing of ink, and when this is dry rub over with a damp rag to remove any superfluous ink, and then brush the bag over with the white of an egg.

To shrink flannel before making it into garments and thus avoid future shrinking is an excellent plan. Before cutting out the garments put the flannel into clear cold water, and keep it soaking for a fortnight, changing the water every other day. Then wash out the oily matter with warm, soapy water. This is rather a lengthy process, but it will insure the flannel from shrinking and thickening, as it might otherwise do.

To render clothing nonflammable or, at any rate, so slightly combustible that it will take fire very slowly and not flame at all, add an ounce or so of alum to the last rinsing water when it is washed. Sulphate of ammonia answers the same purpose and is very cheap, costing only twopence a pound, but it is liable to injure color and therefore is not as suitable as alum for children's frocks, which, perhaps, mothers will be most anxious to render fireproof.



THE NEW EGYPTIAN EMBROIDERY.